



Main Roads Heritage Centre.
Photo: Main Roads Heritage Centre 2009



Inside the Main Gallery: a glimpse of early road construction
Photo: Main Roads Heritage Centre 2008



Toowoomba Home Schooling Group
Photo: Main Roads Heritage Centre 2009

Main Roads Heritage Centre
2-22 Mutze Street
Toowoomba Qld 4350

P: 07 4633 2506
F: 07 4633 2810
E: heritage.centre@tmr.qld.gov.au
W: <http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au>

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm by appointment; Weekends: group bookings by appointment

Contact: Deborah Meyer, Heritage Coordinator

Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with the Main Roads Heritage Centre.

'Did You Know' – intriguing facts about the Museum and its collection

- The Centre's collection includes a Raffle Barrel & Numbers from the Nundah Workshops Welfare Club. This object tells the story of care and compassion in an era before government welfare. The Main Roads Depot Welfare Club was formed in early 1944 and served an important social and welfare function for staff and their families, reinforcing the close bond that existed amongst those who worked at Nundah through until the 1990s. The barrel, frame and numbers were made by a plumber and carpenter from the Nundah Workshop. The raffles started as a way for the club to raise funds. The prize on offer was often a chicken, hence its nickname the 'Chook Raffle Barrel'.
- The Centre continues collecting new material related to the department's history, including archaeological finds from new road/bridge projects. Main Roads Heritage Centre is custodian for materials found in projects, such as the widening of the Bunya Highway, Western Downs. A cross-section of a tree known by locals as the '4X' tree was removed as a part of the clearing and grubbing process and relocated to the Centre. The tree has been painted by locals with four white Xs for a number of decades and served as a popular landmark.
- Most of the machinery on display is in full working order and is regularly maintained and started by our Volunteers. This includes a 12-volt lighting power plant introduced in the 1940s as a complimentary technology for lighting road camps at night. The plant was purchased in 1942 and used until the late 1950s. Until the introduction of electric generators, lighting was carbide and kerosene based. Carbide gave a bright white light but had to be used with caution as was volatile if it came in contact with water.

Our Profile

Dirt, Dust and the occasional Big Bang!

The award-winning Main Roads Heritage Centre, Toowoomba's newest museum and home to 88 years of road history in Queensland, is one of a handful of museums in Australia that comprehensively exhibits and interprets the rich history and culture of a government department and its contribution to the rural, economic and social development of Queensland.

The collection covers all facets of Main Roads including items from general administration and design drafting through to material that tells the story of the Department's involvement with the Allied Works Council during World War Two. The collection also covers themes such as soil testing, road camps, uniform, road signs, explosives and surveying. Objects range in diversity from photographs and ephemera to pen nibs and ink bottles, providing stark contrast – in both size and stature – to our large working machinery collection of graders and rollers.

The Centre's significant library of Oral Histories comprises 85 recordings of the memories and experiences of past and present employees and volunteers. These recordings are a unique and valuable part of Queensland's history that relate specifically to the development of the Main Roads Department since 1922.

Working displays such as the blacksmith shop and bridge pile driving scale model bring the collections to life. The exhibitions, designed around the Department's message, "Transport and Main Roads – Connecting Queensland", are presented in layers reminiscent of the processes involved in building roads and target audiences of all ages - a children's trail, careers information and displays that tackle complex themes for all those interested.

What the Standards Program has meant for our Museum

Crystallisation of future plans

The Standards Program has provided an excellent forum at an opportune time for us to focus on and crystallise future directions for marketing and public programs now that we have a publicly accessible museum.

Peer recognition for a job well done

The Standards process enabled us to critically review our general museum practices as well as our newly developed exhibitions and ask for critical review from our peers in return. The very positive feedback served as welcome recognition for a job well done.